

Journey of Faith

Autumn 2010 – Spring 2011

The *Journey of Faith* is a pathway to spiritual growth and renewal that is patterned after Christ's way of welcoming people and forming them into a community of disciples. It includes time for exploration and inquiry where your questions set the framework for discussion. Each session includes time for Biblical reflection, prayer, and discernment based on the Sunday readings as they intersect with daily life. During the season of Lent, those who are interested are invited to prepare to be baptized or to affirm their baptism at the Great Vigil of Easter. During the Easter season, we will explore together what it means to live as a community of disciples. *Journey of Faith* meets on Sundays from 5:00 until 6:45PM. The gatherings include a simple meal and childcare is available.

Autumn: A Time to Ask Questions and Get Acquainted

The first leg of the *Journey of Faith* is to ask questions and meet others on the journey. Your life story and questions along with the Sunday readings form the basis for our discussion. This segment of the journey will culminate with the *Rite of Welcome* for those who wish to continue on the *Journey of Faith*.

- *Fall 2010 dates: October 17, 24 and 31; November 7, 14 and 21 (6 weeks)*
- *Rite of Welcome on Sunday, November 21st.*

Epiphany: A Time to Hear God's Word Together

During January, we begin the second segment of the journey. We will continue to explore the Scriptures using a method called *lectio divina* (literally "holy reading"); a traditional Christian practice that combines prayer and Scripture reading as a means for deeper discernment. During this leg of the journey, we will continue to take time to hear God's Word together and reflect together on how it speaks to us today. This segment of the journey will culminate with the *Rite of Enrollment* for those desiring to be baptized or affirm their baptism at the Great Vigil of Easter.

- *Winter 2011 dates: January 9, 16, 23 and 30; February 6, 13 and 20 (7 weeks)*
- *Rite of Enrollment on Sunday, February 20th.*

Lent: A Time for Exploring the Heart of Faith

During March, we will explore the Lenten gospel readings in preparation for the rites of **Baptism or Affirmation of Baptism** at the Great Vigil of Easter. These readings are especially appropriate for those who want to travel with Jesus to Holy Week and explore the meaning of the cross and Resurrection for our individual lives as well as the life of the world.

- *Early Spring 2011 dates: March 13, 20 and 27; April 3, 10 and 17 (6 weeks)*
- *Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday evening, April 23rd.*

Easter: A Time to focus on Daily Discipleship

Writer Frederick Buechener once observed that our vocation is the place where God calls us in which our deep joy meets the world's deep hunger. During the Easter season, we will consider the unique vocations (callings) that each of us has as a disciple of Jesus Christ. In this last stage of our journey, each person will have an opportunity to reflect on his/her gifts and interests as well as exploring how we might use them in our families, congregation, and community. The *Journey of Faith* concludes with the *Affirmation of Vocation*.

- *Late Spring 2011: May 1, 8, 15, and 22 (4 weeks)*
- *Affirmation of Vocation on Sunday, May 22nd.*